



“VOICES OF HOPE”

Below are is a list of the 20 Arab-Jewish Initiatives that were selected out of 600 applicants to win the New Israel Fund's “Voices of Hope” prize money. NIF, which believes that the only way future for Israel is a shared future, is proud to support this diverse set of projects.

- **Breaking the Borders** – The Bat Yam Educational Authority aims to create a program that brings Jewish and Arab informal educators from Bat Yam and Jaffa to work on preventing violence and strengthening connections between the neighboring cities. The initial stage of the project will expose educators to the “other” national narrative, provide tools for processing fraught emotions that surface, and culminate in joint meetings between educators from Jaffa and Bat Yam. The long-term goal is to create a civic-educational partnership between the two cities’ educational staff.
- **Neighbors / جيران; We Are Lod / نحن اللد** — This project was catalyzed by the violent events in Lod in May 2021. The project seeks to cement the events of May 2021 in Lod’s collective memory to prevent them from recurring and to create a framework for Jewish-Arab community activity. Project activists will design and install ceramic placards with the phrase “Neighbors / جيران We Are Lod / نحن اللد” at 50 sites around the city, including at the locations of some of the worst violence. In addition, project activists will organize four community events bringing together residents and local artists to create environmental art. The project strives to give physical expression in public spaces to the needs and hopes of the city’s diverse residents.
- **Jaffa, Yafa, A Mixed City, to Mend the Rift** — This project plans to revive and support the work of a community group, the Arab-Jewish Committee for Jaffa, in light of the discord in the city this year. The Association for the Arabs of Jaffa, a veteran organization that has previously worked with NIF’s action arm, Shatil, will partner with Jewish organizations to promote projects of mutual concern for Jaffa’s Arab and Jewish residents such as preserving Jaffa’s historic buildings and responsibly extending the Tel Aviv light rail. The project will promote Jewish-Arab activities for different groups, including schoolchildren (30% of the Arab pupils in Jaffa attend Jewish schools); Arab and Jewish college and university students; and adults.



Bridge the Divide

- **Haifa Promotes a Shared Society** – Partners from municipal departments, civil society, and residents of the mixed city of Haifa will work together to promote shared society in neighborhoods that are home to diverse populations. Activities will include sensitivity training for municipal employees, the creation of an Arab-Jewish civic leadership group and shared society dialogue groups for the general public, and the documentation of narratives of a shared society.
- **A Shared Home** – This initiative will bring together young Jewish Israelis attending pre-military academies together with their Muslim and Christian Arab peers who are doing national service in the Arab sector. The three participating academies are in the mixed cities of Acre and Haifa and in the Bedouin town of Rahat. The project aims to: (1) produce a meaningful encounter between these groups that creates a strong foundation for a shared society; (2) stimulate the young people’s awareness of the need for a shared society; (3) educate them for civic activism.
- **From the Personal to the Political, What is Different to What is Shared** — Palestinian-Israeli and Jewish women who live in Jaffa and south Tel Aviv are underserved populations and have faced intercommunal tensions and violence. They will meet biweekly to create a play about their experiences as women in the mixed city of Tel Aviv-Jaffa. The play will be available in Arabic, Hebrew, and English in a booklet that documents the creative process. This project, from NIF grantee Achoti and the Jaffa women’s group, serves to spark dialogue and will serve as a model for shared society initiatives in other mixed cities and communities throughout the country.
- **A “Linguistic Landscaping” in Public Recreational Spaces: Mapping Phase** – The Arabic language’s status and presence within Israel has been fiercely debated in recent years. This project, submitted by two designers working in partnership with Sikkuy, aims to normalize the presence of Arabic in recreational places by placing specially designed objects decorated with Arabic expressions and proverbs in public places.
- **مؤتمر كلنا الشھري / Kulna Yerushalayim** – Kulna is the embodiment of shared society: Its members, Arabs and Jews, work together in diverse ways to create, as its name implies, a “Jerusalem belonging to all of us” — a more open and egalitarian city for all its residents. This project establishes the Kulna Council, which will build on the group’s activities by creating joint projects under the guidance of two coordinators. The council will meet once a



Bridge the Divide

month, and each session will be devoted to a specific topic such as personal safety or employment. The meeting will be the launching pad for Jewish-Arab activity, which will be developed by Kulna and its members. The group anticipates this work will strengthen Arab-Jewish understanding and collaboration in Jerusalem and produce real change.

- **Narratives Navigator: A document that brings together the different narratives in Israeli society** — This project will produce a unique consolidation of the narratives (history, identity, issues and suggested solutions) of different groups in Israeli society that are often overlooked. The final product will be a document, video, or multimedia experience. A steering committee of roughly 15 participants representing at least five groups in Israel (for example: Mizrahi Jews, Palestinian-Israeli, Ethiopian, Orthodox) will work to produce a narrative document in three languages (Arabic, Hebrew, and English). The document will be disseminated on various platforms and promoted for use by all kinds of educational contexts for young people. The hope is that it will serve as a catalyst for dialogue, in pursuit of the goal of working together for a shared society.
- **Ofek: Training Arab experts to appear in media and academic forums** — Palestinian-Israelis are almost entirely absent from scholarly and media discussions of the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine conflict. This project seeks to train Palestinian Israelis who are experts on the Middle East, Islam, and the Palestinians to become commentators and researchers in the media and in academic forums. This project aims to spotlight different perspectives and reduce the extent to which security conversations are dominated by a Jewish ethnocentric approach.
- **A bilingual course to provide support and tools for medical professionals to cope with burnout and loss** — Health care is among the fields with the highest rate of Jewish-Arab cooperation in Israel. Regardless of their background, however, health-care workers contend with tremendous stress on and off the job. This trailblazing course for staff of a hospital, senior citizens' home, and HMO clinic in northern Israel aims to provide tools for dealing with ongoing exposure to suffering and loss within a safe space that promotes intercultural understanding. The course will be replicated in additional institutions.



- **Joint Residential Program for Jewish and Arab Graduates of Art Institutes** — The program aims to deepen Jewish-Arab ties through art. Givat Haviva, among the leading shared society organizations in Israel, will bring 12 Jewish and Arab recent graduates of art institutes in various disciplines (visual arts, dance, design, music, theater, cinema, etc.) to its campus for three months, giving them full room and board, and providing a workspace, guidance from instructors and peers, and an place to exhibition space, a process designed to ease their transition into the competitive art world. This joint experience will provide a unique framework for Arabs and Jews to better understand one another, and to develop a cadre of young artists who can help encourage the Israeli art world to become more multicultural and multidisciplinary.
- **Arab-Jewish Center for Social Justice in Ramle** — This one-year training program, part of a long-term project to develop a Jewish-Arab Hashomer Hatzair community in Ramle, will bring together 200 Jewish and Arab social activists, providing them with a unique framework in which to build mutual understanding and solidarity. Five such social justice centers are active throughout the country already. The Ramle program will deal with the burning issues in Arab society today, including crime and violence, education, equal rights, integration and employment, gender equality, infrastructure and housing, local and national democracy, and Palestinian-Israeli identity and culture.
- **Building Tomorrow in Minecraft: Education Edition** — This online summer course for Jewish and Arab 7th - 12th graders from around Israel will teach the basics of computer programming through the Minecraft Education Edition. Over eight weeks, students will be introduced to the basics of logic and programming languages, apply what they have learned in virtual 3-D construction, and take part in competitions. All of the sessions will be conducted in English, a neutral language, to reinforce the students' spoken language skills, and there will be no political discussions. At the end of the course, there will be a face-to-face meeting where all the students present the products of their work and reflect on the bonds they developed and the skills they acquired.
- **Jaffa's Not for Sale—Save Ajami** — 460 Arab families in the Ajami neighborhood of Jaffa are currently facing eviction from their homes. These families were internally displaced in 1948, when their homes became state property and were forced to move to a military area and



Bridge the Divide

become tenants of Amidar, a state-owned public housing company, and the Israel Lands Authority (ILA). This project seeks to engage Jews and Arabs in fighting the impending evictions, building trust, and creating solid foundations for shared society through this cooperation.

- **Startup Negev** – Startup Negev is a tech accelerator catering to the Negev Bedouin community, works to bring Israel’s high-tech industry to the Negev. The project brings together university-age Jewish and Bedouin entrepreneurs and helps them develop new products from conception to completion. The encounters also create opportunities to network and foster a high-tech community based on coexistence and mutual respect.
- **Joint Program for Jewish and Arab School Principals** – Learning Together is an educational model developed by the Center for Education Technology that fosters educational partnerships between Hebrew and Arabic language schools in the same geographic region. The program will focus on the Ramle area, working in partnership with the education department in the Ramle Municipality to devise a strategic plan for a Jewish-Arab partnership, conduct joint studies in 10 Jewish and Arab schools in Ramle-Lod, and provide extensive training to principals and teachers—all of which will impact thousands of young Israelis and impress upon them the importance of shared society.
- **Developing Bedouin Tourism as a Catalyst for Good Neighborly Relations** — The Good Neighbors network in the Negev was established in 2018 as a collaboration between NIF’s action arm, Shatil, Atid Bamidbar, and the Mirkam Ezori group. It currently includes nine organizations and grassroots initiatives and about 30 activists. This project, based on Bedouin-Jewish cooperation, supports the development of Bedouin tourism, especially in the unrecognized villages, as a path for individual and community empowerment and economic development of these impoverished settlements.
- **Coming Together to Promote Cooperation and Shared Society** — The Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages, an NIF grantee which advocates for the Bedouin population in southern Israel, has worked to improve ties between Bedouin communities and their Jewish neighbors in recent years. This proposal builds on that cooperation and focuses on activities that will further increase trust between Arabs and Jews in the Ramat Negev Regional



Bridge the Divide

Council area (which covers 20% of Israel's territory). Proposed activities include a soccer tournament for elementary school children, a multi-year program bringing together 5th-graders from Jewish and Arab school for at least four meetings over the course of the school year, Jewish and Arab teens working together to clean up and improve access to two local riverbeds, cultural encounters for adults around music, films, and culinary experiences, and dialogue workshops for local leaders to be facilitated by Siach Shalom (Talking Peace).

- **Creative workshops for Jewish and Arab youth (with System Ali)** — Beit System Ali, the NGO side of the multilingual band System Ali from Jaffa will promote Arab-Jewish workshops to forge a shared sense of creativity between participants. Over the course of several meetings, participants in the workshops will acquire tools to help them express themselves, confront their emotions, and articulate the change they wish to effect in their communities. These workshops offer participants the opportunity, in some cases for the first time in their lives, to deal with the circumstances and challenges they face. The first stage of the workshop involves homogeneous groups of youth; the second stage brings together youth from different backgrounds.